

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**DRAFT 2008 Section 303(d)  
Surface Water Quality List**

**February 2008**



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**Surface Water Quality List**

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE***  
***DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES***  
***29 HAZEN DRIVE***  
***CONCORD, N.H. 03301***

***THOMAS S. BURACK***  
***COMMISSIONER***

***MICHAEL J. WALLS***  
***ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER***

***HARRY T. STEWART***  
***DIRECTOR***  
***WATER DIVISION***

**Prepared by:**  
**Ken Edwardson.**

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## **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 PURPOSE**

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act [PL92-500, commonly called the Clean Water Act (CWA)], as last reauthorized by the Water Quality Act of 1987, requires each state to submit a list of impaired waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every two years. The document is typically called the “303(d) List “ which is so named because it is a requirement of Section 303(d) of the CWA. The 303(d) List includes surface waters that are:

- impaired or threatened by a pollutant or pollutant(s),
- not expected to meet water quality standards within a reasonable time even after application of best available technology standards for point sources or best management practices for nonpoint sources and,
- require development and implementation of a comprehensive water quality study (i.e., called a Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL study) that is designed to meet water quality standards.

### **1.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY AND TERMS**

The 2008 Section 305(b) and 303(d) Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (i.e., the CALM) describes in detail how surface water quality assessment decisions were made. The CALM also includes descriptions and definitions of the many terms used. A copy of the CALM is provided at [www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa). Readers are strongly encouraged to read the CALM before reviewing assessments as it will help one to better understand and interpret assessment results.

### **1.3 DES SURFACE WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT WEBSITE**

To help determine the extent and/or location of assessment units (AUs), visual aids such as maps are very useful. Unfortunately, the mapping capabilities developed for the 2004 assessment have not yet been updated for the 2008 cycle but will be prior to issuance of the final 303 (d) list. Although not updated, the 2004 maps can be still be used to locate the vast majority of AUs in 2008, as more than 99% of the fresh waterbodies remain unchanged from 2004. . To determine the extent and location of the majority of 2008 assessment units using maps, please follow the directions below.

Go to [www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/swqa).  
Click on “Final 2004 Section 305(b) and 303(d) Surface Water Quality Report “,  
Click on “How to find the Assessment Unit Number (AUID) for any surface water”,  
Click on “2004 - [GIS Method for Finding the Location of a Surface Water, its AUID and Its Assessment Status](#)” (please be aware that the assessment status provided on this website is for 2004 and has not been updated for 2008).

With regards to tidal waters, the AUs for 2008 have been revised to correspond with the latest shellfish classification zones. To see maps showing the spatial extent of the shellfishing zones, please go to <http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/shellfish/openclosed.htm>

## **CHAPTER 2 SECTION 303(D) LIST FORMAT**

### **2.1 OVERVIEW**

The Section 303(d) List is provided in Appendix A. As previously mentioned, the Section 303(d) List only includes waters that are impaired or threatened by pollutants that require Total Maximum Daily Load studies (TMDLs). Consequently, the 303(d) List represents a subset of all impaired waters as not all impairments require a TMDL.

The List is sorted by waterbody type and then Assessment Unit ID number or AUID (each waterbody has a unique AUID). Each record includes the impaired designated use in that assessment unit, the cause of impairment, the probable source of impairment, and an estimated date that the TMDL will be completed. TMDL schedule dates and probable source names are currently blank in the case of newly documented impairments. This information will be provided on the final 303(d) list. As mentioned in Section 1.2, the reader is encouraged to review the 2008 Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology before reviewing the assessments as it will help one to better understand and interpret the assessment results. As discussed in Section 1.3, lists are available on the DES website to assist readers with finding AUID numbers for any waterbody of interest.

Before proceeding, it is important to note that all surface waters are impaired due to statewide fish/shellfish consumption advisories issued because of elevated levels of mercury in fish and shellfish tissue. Since mercury is a pollutant that requires a TMDL, all 5000+ surface waters in New Hampshire are included on the Section 303(d) List. However, in order to keep the length of the 303(d) List in Appendix A to manageable size, surface waters impaired solely by atmospheric mercury deposition were not included.

## **APPENDIX A: Section 303(d) List**